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Alleged Target Of Soviet Spies Gets a New Post

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Maj. James R. Holbrook, whom the Russians allegedly attempted to recruit as a spy while he was assigned to the U.S. embassy in Moscow, has a new assignment with the Defense Intelligence Agency, a Pentagon official said yesterday.

Holbrook, an Army linguist, originally had been tapped for possible assignment to the office of Vice President George Bush, but officials said the major requested that he be given another job instead. There was no explanation of why he did this.

He left Moscow Jan. 17 and took over his assignment with DIA on Jan. 28, officials said.

The U.S. embassy in Moscow has refused to comment on reports that Holbrook, 41, a U.S. Army attache, hurriedly left the Soviet Union after a mysterious incident in which Soviet agents may have set him up for blackmail and recruitment as a spy.